

SENATE RESOLUTION 163

By McNally

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Brandon Caleb Phillips for his great courage and strength in the face of adversity.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly pause to specially recognize those Tennesseans who, by facing life's travails with the utmost courage and fortitude, serve as examples of strength, faith, and endurance to all the people of this State; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable individual is three-year-old Brandon Caleb Phillips, a patient at the Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt in Nashville; with the steadfast support of his parents, Cody and Mandy, all the members of his loving family, and his many friends, Caleb is undergoing treatment for leukemia; and

WHEREAS, on June 4, 2009, Caleb received a bone marrow transplant, a vital and powerful treatment that often carries with it significant side effects; according to Caleb's physicians, the young patient experienced few of the ill effects that doctors usually expect; and

WHEREAS, the procedure, the doctors told Caleb's parents, went more smoothly than any they had ever witnessed; and

WHEREAS, young Caleb's response to the transplant no doubt bodes quite well for the long period of treatment that lies ahead; his indomitable spirit, it seems, has been paired with a most resilient body; and

WHEREAS, over the course of the next several weeks, Caleb will remain at Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital while doctors observe the results of his bone marrow transplant and administer other necessary treatment; once they have determined that Caleb's transplant has been successful, he will move out of the hospital, but remain nearby to receive additional treatments on an outpatient basis; and

WHEREAS, for the present, Caleb and his parents are staying together in his hospital room, an arrangement they will continue throughout the next few weeks of his inpatient hospitalization; with both his parents immediately available, he is able to have one or the other sleep with him every night, and the closeness of his mother and father is a wellspring of strength and hope for this remarkable youngster; and

WHEREAS, doctors estimate that Caleb's treatment should conclude one hundred days after the transplant, assuming that it achieves the desired effect; should he require another transplant, several more acceptable donors have already been made available; and

WHEREAS, during this difficult trial, Caleb Phillips is receiving the best care modern medicine has developed, and the loved ones gathered around him have demonstrated that they are more than willing to match Caleb's determination, come what may; and

WHEREAS, Caleb is the proud older brother of a nine-month-old sister, Ashlyn, and when she is old enough, she will undoubtedly appreciate the qualities of fortitude and faith that her parents and brother so truly exemplify; and

WHEREAS, whenever Tennesseans see one of their fellows, especially one as young as Caleb Phillips, facing tribulation, it is their instinct to pledge their support, which they offer unstintingly; and

WHEREAS, another habit prominent among people of this State is their quickness to applaud the courageous among them, giving with great liberality their praise and well-wishes to those who serve as examples of bravery and vigor; and

WHEREAS, the people of Tennessee are fortunate indeed to count among their ranks people such as Caleb Phillips, his devoted family members, and all those who have rallied to his cause, and they should be duly recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor and recognize Caleb Phillips, his parents, Cody and Mandy, his team of healthcare professionals, and all those who have gathered together to see this remarkable Tennessean through his battle with leukemia, applaud them all, especially the young patient, for their abiding faith and singular strength, and wish them the very best as they strive to facilitate Caleb's return to good health.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.